

ARTICLE APPEARED  
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LOUDOUN TIMES-MIRROR (VA)  
4 July 1985

FILED

## Candidates ignore forum in Leesburg organized by LaRouche-backed NDPC

Virginia's gubernatorial candidates declined to send representatives to a campaign forum held in Leesburg last Wednesday by a political action committee affiliated with controversial political figure Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr.

In the absence of the candidates, the PAC, called the National Democratic Policy Committee, featured two of its own speakers, including the campaign director of LaRouche's unsuccessful bid for president last year.

About 50 people, most of them affiliated with organizations linked to LaRouche, attended the forum at the Leesburg Firehouse.

The two speakers were Mel Klenetsky who directed LaRouche's campaign last year and who serves as national spokesman for the NDPC; and Webster Tarpley, an international advisor to the NDPC and Washington bureau chief for the Executive Intelligence Review, also affiliated with LaRouche.



**NDPC Spokesman Mel Klenetsky**

Klenetsky said the NDPC was formed in 1980 by Democrats opposing

the nomination of then president Jimmy Carter. It backed LaRouche, who lives near Leesburg, when he ran for president in 1984. The NDPC is not affiliated with the National Democratic Party.

Klenetsky outlined the NDPC's objectives, while Tarpley gave his analysis of the Beirut hostage crisis, saying the Soviet Union is behind it.

Klenetsky said the NDPC plans other similar forums in Virginia and in Loudoun County. A Loudoun spokesman for the NDPC said the group hasn't set any dates yet.

The spokesman also said the group hasn't backed any candidates for local or state office in Loudoun.

Klenetsky said it was unfortunate that the two gubernatorial candidates, Democrat Gerald L. Baliles and Republican Wyatt Durrette, declined to attend or send representatives. He urged people present to contact them and urge them to address the issues.